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Super Mileage Challenge set, Special to the Tribune-Star

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Terre Haute South Vigo, Northview and Eastern Greene high schools and PVETI Manufacturing Academy in Cayuga will participate in the 11th annual IMSTEА Super Mileage Challenge on Monday at Indianapolis Raceway Park. Thirty-six Indiana high schools have entered 47 cars in the two classes of competition. Stock class allows no modification to the engine and will have 28 cars. Unlimited class allows engine modifications and will have 19 entries. The unlimited class cars typically average more than 1,000 mpg and this year the field will be seeking to crack the 1,500 mpg barrier.

Students build their own cars under the supervision of a faculty member. They are responsible for the design and construction of the car and for raising all funds needed for the project. Engines are furnished by Briggs & Stratton Corp. but all other items must be either bought or donated by sponsors. The students learn not only the technical and scientific aspects of building a high-mileage car, they also learn how to work as a team and solve complex problems.

To be eligible to compete, each school must submit a detailed technical proposal covering all aspects of the design and construction of the car. Such things as aerodynamic drag, friction forces, braking forces and cornering forces must be calculated and discussed in detail. The proposal ensures the students are exposed to the scientific principles of high mileage as well as to the technology of building the car.

The Super Mileage Challenge is conducted under the auspices of the Indiana Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Alliance. IMSTEА is a not-for-profit, educational organization composed of teachers, administrators, business people and concerned citizens. It is dedicated to improving the technological literacy and competence of Indiana's citizens.

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